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New Orleans District

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Riverside

Task Force Hope Edition

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Evacuation ordered in Western Louisiana

Commander tells Western Louisiana Corps staff to head for higher ground

District Engineer Col. Richard P. Wagenaar issued an Evacuation Order for the Western Louisiana Corps offices Thursday.

The order directed the evacuation of employees assigned or located in the following parishes because of the impending threat of Hurricane Rita: Acadia, Cameron, Calcasieu, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Vermillion and St. Mary.

The decision to evacuate employees working in the Greater New Orleans area has been pushed back to Friday morning. If an evacuation is ordered, details will be disseminated throughout the District headquarters, posted on the District website and available on the toll-free information line at 1-877-533-5244.

The commander's Hurricane Katrina evacuation order for the District is still in effect. Only emergency essential personnel are allowed to report to the District office. These essential employees will be requested by name to report, and their organization point of contact will have made direct contact with them and provided instructions.

The informational meeting at the District headquarters has been rescheduled for 2 p.m., Monday, Sept. 26.

Employees currently in the Galveston or Houston area are advised to seek safe harbor until conditions permit you to return to an approved satellite location.

Until Hurricane Rita passes and Louisiana is in the clear, employees are requested to stay near one of the satellite offices. Offices are located at the Fort Worth District, Mobile District, Vicksburg District, Baton Rouge Office, Memphis District, St Louis District, and Lafayette Area Office.

Employees outside of the Greater New Orleans area should begin planning to move closer to an approved satellite office if lodging permits and it is safe to do so.

Employees should continue to monitor Hurricane Rita, listen to parish officials and heed their orders to evacuate. Employees who decide to evacuate should proceed to a location outside the predicted landfall of the storm.

Commander's Comments

Team, it's been three and half weeks since Hurricane Katrina turned New Orleans upside down. We are doing great things, and we will continue to do great things. Your hard work and perseverance is paying off.

Although Hurricane Rita threatens some of our progress, we must continue to look down the road. The current threat is only a "small blip" on our radar screen of what must be done in the region.

In regards to Hurricane Rita, stay safe and stay in contact. Be mindful of

the situation you are in and be prepared for the uncertain. You and your family's safety is important. Obey the guidance of your local parish. The District, the city and the region needs every member of this team to come back, ready to work and prepared to help rebuild the region's defenses.

Remember, this "reconstitution" is new to all of us. Be careful not to waste time "spinning your wheels" on the things that might change at any moment. This also means we must continue to be flexible and innovative about how we do business.



Col. Richard P. Wagenaar

see **COMMANDER** Pg. 2

Preparing for Hurricane Rita



Craig Waugaman, left, and Rob Dauenhauer, both New Orleans District construction engineers, release a 7,000 pound sand bag from a backhoe on Sept. 21. The bags are used to fill a levee breach at the Industrial Canal that happened during Hurricane Katrina. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working around the clock as Hurricane Rita approaches New Orleans and the Gulf region.

(Photo by Hank Heusinkveld, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

COMMANDER

Although I'd like to bring everyone back to work at the District Office, it simply isn't feasible right now. That's why I must ask you to follow the guidance that the human resources personnel have provided and report to one of the satellite offices.

Stay safe and stay in contact.

Hooah!

RICHARD P. WAGENAAR
Colonel
Commanding

Satellite Office Contacts

Fort Worth District

Mike Palmieri, 817-978-9999
819 Taylor Street, Ft. Worth, TX

Galveston District

Clyde Barre, 409-762-6300
2000 Ft. Point Rd, Galveston, TX

Baton Rouge RFO

Mike Lowe, 225-925-7337
1900 N Lobdell Blvd,
Baton Rouge, LA

Lafayette Area Office

Troy Constance, 337-291-3012
646 Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette, LA

Mobile District

Eric Forest, 251-690-2400
109 Saint Joseph St., Mobile, AL

Vicksburg District

MAJ(P) Starkel, 601-631-5322
4155 Clay St, Vicksburg, MS

Memphis District

Gloria Reeves, 901-544-0811
617 N. Main, Memphis, TN

St. Louis District

Falcolm Hull, 314-331-8567
1222 Spruce St., St. Louis, MO

New Orleans numbers to know

Health Office - Room 143

Vaccinations, EAP
Peggy Plaisance, x 1223

LMO- Room 263

Parking, facilities
Shelton Kennedy, x 2007
Mary Pizzuto, x 2009

EOC

Lynn Tinto, cell 504.451.7134

IMO - Room 189

Computers, phones
Fred Lacheney, x1199 or x2686
Chris Colombo, x1315

Security - Room 146

Joe Baker, x 1184
Jerome Wise, x 2342

CPOC - Room 243

Kathy Borja, x 2792



Maj. (P) Murray Starkel, deputy district commander, conducted an informational town hall meeting with personnel in Vicksburg Sept. 21. Starkel shared information on reconstitution plans which have been altered by the threat of Hurricane Rita and answered questions. (Photo by Hank Heusinkveld, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)